

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRESS RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTION START DELAYED DUE TO SCHOOL START ON HALL COUNTY'S FIRST AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ROAD PROJECT

GAINESVILLE, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces construction has been delayed on the first highway project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in Hall County. Work will not begin today as planned. Work is rescheduled to begin Monday, August 17.

"North Hall High School and North Hall Middle School are on SR 283. Working with the contractor, Georgia DOT delayed the start of work for one week. As work begins next week, crews will be patching the asphalt. They will work in very short sections and shouldn't cause much delay in the area. Patching will take about a week. Then crews will begin to resurface the roadway. By that time everyone will be settled into their school routine and hopefully our work won't be much of an impact to parents, students and staff," explained Russell McMurry DOT District Engineer.

State Route (SR) 283/Mount Vernon Road will be resurfaced from the intersection with SR 60/Thompson Bridge Road to SR 52/Dahlonega Highway in Gainesville. Work will occur weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or after 7:00 p.m., as weather permits.

"Because North Hall Middle School and High School are along the project special work hour restrictions were added. Crews will not be allowed to work within ½ mile of the schools between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to minimize the impact of road work on students, staff and parents. If the weather cooperates, work should be finished this calendar year," said McMurry.

Flaggers will stop traffic and then pilot vehicles will lead motorists through the work zone as weather permits.

The estimated construction cost of this 9.3 mile resurfacing project is \$1.29 million. C W Matthews Contracting, Inc of Marietta is the contractor. The completion date for the project is April 30, 2010.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia's \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent is divided among the state's 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and designated rural areas. The MPOs, in conjunction with the Department, are funding projects from these respective allocations. The state also received \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and Georgia DOT has awarded related local grants totaling approximately \$39 million. Georgia is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America's economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation

infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT has created a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects are fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Georgia DOT costs estimates are projections of the possible total cost of a project to the Department. Estimates are tentative and preliminary. They include, but are not limited to, items such as contingencies, possible costs associated with utility conflicts, project inspections, testing and engineering. These are potential costs to the Department, not to a project's contractor; thus, they will not be reflected in contractor bids.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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